(d) if so, whether his Ministry has sought Cabinet approval for offer list forwarded by China and exchange of tariff concessions with that country under Bangkok Agreement; and

(e) if so, to what extent Government have approved and conveyed to Chinese Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Confederation of Indian Industry has entered into a fresh Memorandum of Understanding with the All India-China Federation of Industry and Commerce in November 2003.

(d) and (e) Negotiations for exchange of tariff concessions with China on China's accession to Bangkok Agreement were concluded in the bilateral meeting held with China in Beijing in February, 2003. As agreed between the two sides, India will extend concessions on 106 items corresponding to 188 tariff lines (6 digit HS), on which tariff concessions are already given to other Bangkok Agreement member countries, i.e. Bangladesh, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. China has agreed to extend tariff concessions on 217 tariff lines as per International Trade Classification Harmonised System (ITC HS) 2003.

Export of wheat to Iraq

1239. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
DR. A.R. KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Indian business delegation that went to Iraq was successful in reviving contracts worth Rs. 300 crores for export of three lakh tonnes of wheat to Iraq under the United Nation's oil-for-food programme;

(b) if so, whether Government in Iraq has approved to revive export of wheat contracts for which agreements were already signed but shipments could not go through due to war;

(c) whether before war, there was an agreement of supplying wheat to Iraq;

(d) if so, the quantity of wheat Iraq has agreed to import from India; and

(e) the arrangements made to supply the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A-30 Member Indian business delegation, organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), visited Iraq in August, 2003 to revive the export contracts of Indian firms, including those of wheat and to get them prioritised for exports to Iraq under UN sponsored, "Oil for Food Programme'. According to a report on the visit, despite the difficult law and order situation, the delegation was extremely satisfied about their visit. They have been able to revive and renegotiate some of the contracts that had been signed under the Oil for Food Programme. Under the UN Resolutions 1472 and 1483, during the period 28th March, 2003 to 21st November, 2003, six Indian contracts for export of wheat for a total value of US$ 43,945,863.44 were prioritised and are currently under various stages of implementation.

(c) to (e) Several Indian companies had contracted to supply wheat to Iraq even before war under the Oil for Food Programme and as per report of FICCI, Iraq had agreed to import 6,00,000 MTs of wheat from India. The Food Corporation of India (FCI), the sole agency for supplying wheat for exports, releases the wheat consignments from time to time as per the requirements of exporters.

Trade between India and UK

1240. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade between India and UK, which now stands at around 5 billion pounds, is expected to increase substantially over next few